

he has drawn the following conclusions: 1st. Brome completely dissolved in distilled water, and injected into the veins, produces death in doses of ten or twelve drops, by coagulating the blood, without affecting the nervous system. 2d. Introduced into the empty stomach, the œsophagus being immediately tied, it causes death in three or four days; whilst if the stomach be filled with aliments, this substance is converted into the hydro-bromic acid, the poisonous effects of which are infinitely less active. Should the œsophagus not be tied, it will require from fifty to sixty drops to cause death, and care is still necessary to prevent its being rejected soon after being taken. 3d. Brome taken in an infusion of coffee, and swallowed before it has had time to be converted into bromic acid, will equally cause the death of the animal. 4th. Brome introduced into the stomach of a dog, in the dose of fifty or sixty drops, produces death, unless soon followed by vomiting. 5th. It has a strong analogy in its operation with iodine, and consequently ought to be placed next to it in the scale of irritating poisons. 6th. The cyanuret of brome ought to be ranged, like the cyanuret of iodine among the narcotico-acrid poisons. 7th. Injected into the cellular tissue in the dose of five or eight grains, it produces mortal symptoms, without however, always inducing death. 8th. Introduced into the stomachs of dogs, it only causes death in doses of four or five grains, and the dose requisite to kill a rabbit, under similar circumstances, is infinitely less.—*Archives Générales, Sept. 1828.*

72. *Reduction of the Sulphuret of Arsenic.*—M. Berzelius points out the following as one of the most certain means of ascertaining the most minute portions of arsenic contained in the precipitate obtained by the hydro-sulphuric acids and the hydro-sulphates. The precipitate is to be enclosed in a glass tube, stopped at one end, about four or five inches long, and of the calibre of a large quill. This tube is to be warmed by a lamp of alcohol, over which it is to be held obliquely in such a manner as that the flame will be directed immediately above the part where the substance to be reduced is placed so that the vapour of the sulphuret of arsenic will be obliged to pass this heated point: after this, if the vapour passes slowly it will be completely decomposed. The sulphurous acid produced will disengage itself and the arsenious acid be deposited on the sides of the tubes. The tube is drawn out (*étirée*) after being heated, the arsenious acid is pushed into the portion of the tube drawn out (*étirée*) and by heating it, it is made to pass in vapour upon burning charcoal, which effects its reduction. Charcoal in lumps is to be preferred to the powder as the latter is dispersed by the heat.—*Journal de Chem. Méd. Sept. 1828.*

MISCELLANEOUS.

73. *Constitution of the Year.*—"When Sydenham treated of the constitution of the year, he meant an epidemic, or a certain morbid condition of the human body as an effect, from a certain state of atmosphere as a cause, which he termed the constitution or disposition of the year. The effect was a matter of observation, and certain: the cause admitted of disputation."

"If Sydenham had flourished in this era he would have termed the constitution of the years 1825, 6, 7, and 8, intermittent, and it has been combined with an unusual degree of neuralgic affection, from hemicrania to the most intractable forms of tic douloureux. A similar combination of disease took place in the year 1809, but has not prevailed for a quarter of a century to the extent which it has done during the last two years. It commenced in the spring of 1825, having been preceded by an unusual humid autumn, during which the north of Europe was flooded to a very alarming extent. It was ushered in by a very fatal peritonitis, both simple and puerperal, in the human subject, and by a still more destructive wet rot amongst sheep. A wool merchant informed

the editor that during an experience of forty years, he had never known it so fatal: he estimated that a tenth of the sheep throughout the kingdom died. But the destruction in particular situations was excessive. A resident near Romney Marsh informed him that some of the farmers lost all their flock; he named one who had lost twelve hundred sheep. It was at the end of February in that year, (1825,) that an experienced surgeon at the west end of London said to him, that he had lost four patients in the puerperal state during that month, of what appeared to him to be peritonitis previous to the post mortem examination, which did not explain to his satisfaction the nature of the disease, he having found, in two of the cases, only a little bloody serum extravasated into the peritoneum. He added, that he could not understand it, and was persuaded that more would be heard of it. His prediction was verified. At the east end of London, not far from the river, this disease proved still more fatal during the month of March. One surgeon informed the editor that he had lost seven, another four, in all of which the disease was treated at the instant of its formation by active blood-letting. A physician-accoucheur, who attended in consultation many of these cases, stated to him, that out of thirteen cases, eleven died, that all which had been bled died, and that the only two which recovered had not been bled, having been treated by turpentine. The summer proved remarkably dry and hot: during July not a drop of rain fell in London. The intermittents commenced with anomalous inflammatory affections, lapsing into continued fever, and sliding into a quotidian or tertian type, rheumatism, subject to dangerous metastasis, erysipelas of an untoward kind, and some cases of malignant sore throat, which had not occurred for a long period before. The autumnal season was humid, and the continued fevers, falsely called typhoid, and approximating more to the remittent form, proved insidious, the fatal collapse occurring early and unexpectedly. The following summer proved still more dry, there being scarcely any rain even in June, and not less hot, so that the pulse crop failed. The character of disease was less malignant, but the same type was still preserved. Puerperal peritonitis was much less fatal, but even in this year, one surgeon at the east end of the town lost seven women in a very few weeks, under a varied treatment. 1827 being rather cold and humid, intermittents, remittents, and neuralgic affections prevailed in their greatest extent; and to conclude in the language of Sydenham, the constitution of the year has not changed in 1828. This fatal peritoneal disease appears to have borne the same relation to peritonitis that the pneumonia notha does to pneumonia, not only in the serous, or sero-sanguineous effusion, instead of coagulable lymph, but also in the complete inability of the patient to bear the lancet. The editor's limits prevent him from pursuing this important subject further at present."—*Journal of Morbid Anatomy, &c. Vol. I. Part I.*

74. *Hydrophobia*.—"In a village near Posen, a pig, destined to be killed, was bitten by a rabid dog. Some time after, symptoms of hydrophobia appeared in the animal. The proprietor, not wishing to let it die naturally, killed it, salted the meat, and he and his family ate it in a few weeks. Long time after this, Dr. Suttinger, the medical attendant of the family, having heard of this circumstance, went to see them, and found them in perfect health, and perfectly tranquil about the issue, for they had an idea that there was no danger in eating any part of the animal, except the head, and as they had cut this part off, and buried it, they thought that they had nothing to fear. All the members of this family have continued well ever since."—*Lond. Med. and Surg. Journ. September, 1828.*